

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7 of the specification (i.e., page 7, line 27 to page 8, line 14) as follows:

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In accordance with principles of the present invention, the inter-layer handoff system monitors and/or responds to the duration of a wireless unit in a cell or set of cells of a first layer and/or the time intervals between certain changes in the cell or set of cells servicing the wireless unit. Wireless units that spend a long time within the cell(s) of the first layer can be presumed to be at a slower speed. If so, ~~the~~ an inter-cell layer handoff can be performed to direct the wireless unit to an upper cell layer of smaller-sized cells, such as the micro-cell layer 14b or the pico-cell layer 14c depending on embodiment and/or whether the wireless unit is in the macro-cell layer 14a or the micro-cell layer 14b prior to the inter-layer handoff. Wireless units that spend a short time within the cell(s) of the first layer can be presumed to be at a higher speed, and the hierarchical cellular system performs an inter-cell handoff to a lower cell layer of larger-sized cells, such as the micro-cell layer 14b or the macro-cell layer 14a depending on the embodiment and/or whether the wireless unit is in the micro-cell layer 14b or the pico-cell layer 14c prior to the inter-layer handoff. Depending on the embodiment, the inter-layer handoff system could have multiple threshold levels which could enable an inter-layer handoff between the macro layer 14a and the pico-cell layer 14c.